DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 234 674 HE 016 579

AUTHOR McClain, Ruth S.; Sartwell, David
TITLE A Study of Freshman Student Withdrawal at Salem State College.
INSTITUTION Salem State Coll., Mass.
PUB DATE May 83
NOTE 36p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS College Attendance; College Choice; *College Freshmen; College Transfer Students; *Commuting Students; Dormitories; Dropout Research; *Financial Needs; Higher Education; Institutional Research; Questionnaires; State Colleges; *Student Attrition; *Student College Relationship; Student Motivation
IDENTIFIERS *Salem State College MA

ABSTRACT

Reasons for the withdrawal of 159 first-semester freshmen from Salem State College, Massachusetts, during the fall 1981 or 1982 semesters were studied. Questionnaire results supported the following assumptions: community problems contribute to student withdrawal, not getting into the dorm contributes to attrition for some students, financial problems play an important role, some students are not ready for college, and the registration process discourages some students. Findings include the following: the greatest frequency of official withdrawal occurred for business administration students and students who had not declared a major; 62 percent of the withdrawing students indicated that Salem State College was their first college choice; two-thirds of the respondents were enrolled in the major of their choice; 78 percent withdrew without meeting with their advisor prior to withdrawal; 64 percent were employed, but only 18 percent worked more than 20 hours per week; 70 percent contributed toward the costs of attending college; and 50 percent of students who withdrew indicated that they had transferred to another college. A questionnaire and survey data are included. (SW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED234674

A STUDY OF FRESHMAN STUDENT WITHDRAWAL AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE

An Institutional Research Report
Prepared for
Salem State College

Principal Investigators

Dr. Ruth S. McClain, Assistant to the President, Salem State College
Dr. David Sartwell, Director, Admissions, Salem State College

Research Associates

Katina Barter
William Borgiages
Martha Clarke
Florence Major

HE016539

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

✓ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

May 1983

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Ruth S. McClain

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
LIST OF TABLES		iv
I	INTRODUCTION	1
	Purpose of Study	1
	Definition of Terminology	1
	Assumptions of the Study	1
	Design of the Study	2
	Limitations of the Study	2
	Significance of the Study	3
II	ANALYSIS OF THE DATA	4
	Methodology	4
	Findings	4
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
	Appendices	19
	a. Sample Questionnaire	22
	b. Survey Results	27

This study was conducted
by Dr. David Sartwell,
Director of Admissions
and Dr. Ruth McClain,
Assistant to the President.

The following students,
majoring in Social Services
and enrolled in SS 380,
Research Methods, assisted
with the project:

Katina Barter Martha Clarke

William Bogiages Florence Major

LIST OF TABLES

Table		
I	Population/Respondents by Sex	
II	Population/Respondents by Residency Status	
III	Population/Respondents by Major	
IV	Respondents by SAT Scores	
V	First Choice Colleges	
VI	Question 3 "C":	Why didn't you attend the college of your first choice?
VII	Question 15 "A":	To what school did you transfer?
VIII	Question 16:	What type of work are you doing?
IX	Question 19 "H":	Reasons for withdrawal
X	Question 22:	How did you feel about living in a college dorm?
XI	Question 25:	Commuting problems
XII	Question 29:	Withdrawal from Salem State College not right decision.

I INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to examine why students withdrew from Salem State College during the first semester of their freshman year.

From the results of this study we hope to:

1. understand why freshman students withdraw from Salem State College; and

2. make recommendations for both future research and programmatic changes.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Official Withdrawal: Official Withdrawal is defined by the Salem State College catalog (1982-1984) as withdrawal from all courses and regulations concerning grades. A student may withdraw by completing a special withdrawal form, available in the Academic and Career Advising Center.

Retention: For the purpose of this study retention is defined as the functions of keeping students enrolled at Salem State College until they complete all requirements necessary to be eligible for a B.A. degree.

ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions were set forth prior to conducting the survey:

1. That the cost of off-campus housing was an important reason for student withdrawal;

2. Relatedly, that the lack of dormitory space was a cause for student withdrawal;

3. That commuting problems contributed to student withdrawal;

4. That students felt alienated and alone at Salem State;

5. That some students were not prepared or ready for college;

6. That Salem State College did not live up to the expectations of the students;

7. That the inability to gain acceptance in the major of one's choice contributed to withdrawal for many students;

8. That students view the academic requirements as too numerous;

9. That financial problems play a major role in student withdrawal;

10. That the process of registration caused students to become discouraged and frustrated and eventually led to withdrawal.

11. That the number of working hours a student was involved in had a significant impact on withdrawal.

DESIGN OF STUDY

Methodology - This study employed the survey research approach. A telephone interview was conducted for the collection of the data. The questionnaire contained both open and closed ended questions to obtain information as to the reason students officially withdrew from Salem State College and to ascertain what they are doing now.

Population - The study population was comprised of 159 freshman students who officially withdrew during their first semester at Salem State College either during Fall 1982 or Fall 1981. Phone numbers and demographic information was obtained from institutional data files supplied by computer retrieval of stored data. The population included students from 15 different majors. Other demographic information is as follows:

	F1	F3	Total
MEN	31	26	57
WOMEN	68	34	102
	99	50	159
DORM	5	5	10
COMMUTER	94	44	138
UNKNOWN	-	11	11
	99	60	159

Instrumentation: A questionnaire was developed which included demographic items, multiple response and open ended items. The content items were developed in an attempt to understand student withdrawal behavior and rationale. A sample of the survey instrumented is included with the Appendix A of this report.

Time Schedule: Questionnaire development and training of the interviewers (telephone interviewing skills) was carried out during the months of February and March 1983. The conducting of the survey was begun in early April and concluded by April 16, 1983. Hand analysis of the open-ended items was accomplished prior to computer analyzation of the data which took place during the week of April 18, 1983.

Data analysis and interpretation and the final writing of the report was concluded by May 15, 1983. The results will be submitted to Professor Zayre and other interested college administrators.

LIMITATIONS

1. The population being studied may not be representative of all freshman students who withdrew from Salem State College as only those freshmen who OFFICIALLY withdrew during their first semester were included in this study.

2. Some of the individuals called were unavailable. When this happened, a relative was asked to complete the survey.

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this study is to:

a. provide a baseline of information for Salem State College relative to students who withdrew.

b. offer possible recommendations for programmative changes for academic and support services

II ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Methodology

Analysis of the data was conducted during April 1983 using the computer and the Statistical Package the Social Sciences (SPSS). The statistics utilized in the analysis of the data were: **frequencies** and percentages of all items, demographic and content; **cross-tabs** of selected items listed below:

- items 1 by 15
- items 7 by 19
- items 13 by 12
- residency status by 23
- items 17 by 18
- major by item 1
- major by item 3
- mean SAT by item 19
- item 10 by 15

Additionally, a summary of the open-ended items was carried out by hand analysis.

Findings

As a supplement to the findings reported in this section, a complete presentation of the frequency analysis for all survey items is included in Appendix B.

The survey population was comprised of 159 **freshman students** who withdrew from Salem State College during the fall semester 1982 (60 students) and 1981 (99 students). The response rate for the survey reached nearly seventy-five (74%). Tables 1-3 provide demographic data showing comparisons of the study population and respondents by sex, residency status and major course of study. Table IV provides SAT score information for the respondent group only.

TABLE I

POPULATION/RESPONDENTS BY SEX

	SURVEY POPULATION		RESPONDENTS	
	#	%	#	%
MEN	57	36	34	29
WOMEN	102	64	83	71
TOTAL	159	100	117	100

The results shown above indicate that the composition of men and women in the population was approximatly 1 to 2. In the respondent group, however, women were represented almost 2½ times more than men.

TABLE II

POPULATION/RESPONDENTS BY RESIDENCY STATUS

	SURVEY POPULATION		RESPONDENTS	
	#	%	#	%
DORMITORY	14	6	13	11
COMMUTER (includes off-campus)	134	88	102	88
UNKNOWN	11	6	2	1
TOTAL	159	100	117	100

Table II presents both the study population and respondents by their residency status. The results here show that the percentage of the commuter population and commuter respondents were represented equally when compared to the totals. Those students with dormitory status, although they represented a smaller percentage composition of the study population, were highly responsive; all but one individual responded to the survey.

Table III depicts several noteworthy facts:

- That the number of freshman students who **officially** withdrew during the Fall semesters '81 and '82 decreased by nearly two and one-half percent (2.4%) if the numbers are compared as a percentage composition of the total entering freshmen for those semesters (Fall '81: 7.4% of 1,342; Fall '82: 5% of 1,211).

- That with few non-significant exceptions official withdrawal decreased in each department represented in the survey.

- That the greatest frequency of **official withdrawal** has occurred in both years studied in the **Business Administration** and **Undeclared** departments. These two departments represented more than half (55%) of the survey population as well as the respondents (54%).

- That with the exception of the Art and Math departments, responses were obtained at an excellent rate in all other departments represented in the study.

TABLE III

POPULATION/RESPONDENTS BY MAJOR

MAJOR	WITHDRAWAL POPULATION BY FALL 81	FALL 82	TOTAL SURVEY POPULATION #	%	RESPONDENTS #	%	% OF RESPONDENTS TO POPULATION BY DEPARTMENT
ART	1	0	1	.6	0	0	0
BIOLOGY	5	0	5	3	4	3	80
BUS. ADM.	19	18	37	23	26	22	70
BUS. ED.	5	3	8	5	6	5	75
ECON.	5	0	5	3	4	3	80
EDUC.	4	3	7	4	7	7	100
ENGLISH	1	2	3	2	2	2	67
GEN. ST.	1	2	3	2	2	2	67
GEO.	1	2	3	2	2	2	67
MATH	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
NURSING	5	4	9	6	5	4	56
PRE-ENG.	3	2	5	3	4	3	80
PSY	3	2	5	3	4	3	80
SOC. SERV.	3	2	5	3	4	3	80
SOC/POL SC	3	1	4	3	3	3	75
SFL	0	1	1	.6	1	.8	100
THEATRE	4	2	6	4	6	5	100
UNDECIDED	35	15	50	31	37	32	74
TOTAL	99	60	159	100	117	100	74
FRESHMEN ENROLL.	1342	1211					

TABLE IV

RESPONDENTS SAT SCORES

	DISTRIBUTION (%) OF RESPONDENTS SCORES								AVERAGE SCORES S.S.C. ENROLLED FRESHMEN	
	200-300	300-450	450-600	600-750	750-900	900-1050	1050-1200	1200	AVERAGE	1981	1982
VERBAL	8	69	22	1					387	385	400
MATH	9	52	38	1					425	420	429
COMBINED			7	29	33	23	7	1	812	805	829

The important factor to point out relative to the SAT scores of the respondents is that when their average scores are compared to the enrolled freshmen Fall 1981, 1982 no great differences are apparent.

An analysis of the survey content variables provide numerous insights to the characteristics, attitudes and behavior of the respondents. The most significant findings appear below. Documentation of these findings is found in Appendix B as well as the selected tables herein. These tables represent the results of the open-ended items.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of the students who officially withdrew from Salem State College indicated that Salem State College was their first choice when they applied to college. In addition, two thirds of the respondents were enrolled in the major of their choice. The remaining third chose other Massachusetts public four-year institutions of a higher rate (47%) that private four-year colleges (40%). The choice of two-year institutions was by a very small number (private two year, 4%; public two-year, 2%). It is interesting to note that of all the institutions chosen as first choice by this group only one was outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

TABLE V

QUESTION 2: FIRST CHOICE COLLEGES

Private 2 Year		
1.	Forsythe	1
2.	Marian Court	1
	Total	2/4%
Private 4 Year		
1.	Assumption	1
2.	Babson	3
3.	Bently	1
4.	B.C.	3
5.	B.U.	2
6.	Bryant College	1
7.	Merrimack	2
8.	Northeastern	3
9.	Simmons	1
10.	Syracuse	1
	Total	18/40%
Public 2 Year		
1.	Essex Agriculture	1
	Total	1/2%
Public 4 Year		
1.	Bridgewater State	1
2.	Fitchburg State	6
3.	Framingham State	2
4.	North Adams	1
5.	Southeastern Mass. Univ.	2
6.	Univ. Lowell	3
7.	Univ. Mass.	6
	Total	21/47%
Undetermined		3/7%
TOTAL		45

Of the respondents who didn't attend their first choice college one-third were not accepted and for almost forty percent (38%) the cost was too high. Table VI depicts the "other" reasons given for not attending the first choice college

TABLE VI

QUESTION 3C: WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND THE COLLEGE OF YOUR FIRST CHOICE

REASON	FREQUENCY OF RESPONSE	% OF TOTAL
Too Far From Home; No Dorm Space	9	45
Accepted Late	5	25
Undecided About Going To School	2	10
Grades Too Low	1	5
Marriage	1	5
Work	1	5
Personal Illness	1	5
Total	20	100

While most of the respondents (90%) entered Salem State College immediately after high school, almost one-half of them (48%) felt that they should have waited a year before going to college.

More than three-fourths (78%) of the respondents who withdrew did not meet with their advisor prior to withdrawing. Of those who did meet with their advisor 75% indicated that their advisor was helpful. Additionally, nearly two-thirds (65%) of the respondents were aware of the existence of the Advising Center on campus.

Students who held a job while employed at Salem State College did so at the rate of almost 2 to 1 to those who were not employed while enrolled. Of the sixty-four percent (64%) of the students who were employed, less than twenty percent (18%) worked more than twenty hours per week. Nearly three-fourths (73%) of those students who were employed indicated that their employment did not interfere with their academic performance.

Seventy percent of the respondents contributed toward the costs of attending colleges; forty-two percent (42%) paid for total costs while twenty-eight percent (28%) made partial contributions.

In response to the question "What are you doing now?", one-half (50%) of the students who withdrew indicated that they had transferred to another college. Of that fifty percent (50%), sixty percent (60%) went to public institutions, with the greatest percent (46%) going to public two year institutions. Table VII depicts the students' transfer patterns.

TABLE VII

QUESTION 15A: TO WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU TRANSFER

	#	% OF TOTAL OF SCHOOLS TO WHICH STUDENTS TRANSFERRED
PUBLIC TWO YEAR		
Middlesex C.C.	3	
North Shore C.C.	5	
No. Essex C.C.	7	
Bunker Hill C.C.	4	
Quinsigamond C.C.	2	
Massasoit C.C.	1	
Cape Cod C.C.	2	
Springfield Tech. C.C.	2	
Total	26	46
PRIVATE TWO YEAR		
Fisher Jr. College	2	
Newbury Jr. College	1	
Burdett	3	
Marian Court	3	
Bay State Jr. College	2	
Assoc. Tech Inst.	1	
Dean Jr. College	1	
Total	13	23
PUBLIC FOUR YEAR		
Bridgewater State College	3	
S.S.C. (evenings)	1	
Fitchburg	1	
Southeastern Mass. Univ.	1	
Westfield State	1	
Univ. Massachusetts	1	
Total	8	14
PRIVATE FOUR YEAR		
Curry	1	
Suffolk	1	
Emanuel	2	
Boston University	1	
Aquinas College	1	
Total	6	10
MISCELLANEOUS		
Art School	1	
Travel School	1	
Blue Hill Inst.	1	
Amer. Acad. Of Dram. Arts	1	
Total	4	7

Thus although the most frequently cited response (87%) to question one ("first choice college") were four year institutions, transfer behavior found students at two year institutions at the greatest rate (69%).

Those students who did not transfer to other schools either were working (45%) or doing "other" things (5%) such as military service or housewife. Table VIII provides information as to the occupational situations of the students who listed "working" as a response to question 26.

TABLE VIII

QUESTION 16: WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU DOING
(Those students not in college)

OCCUPATION	NO. OF STUDENTS	% OF TOTAL
Clerical Work	16	31
Service Occupations (includes food, hospital, restaurant, child care)	13	24
Retail Work	11	20
Construction, Maintenance and/or Skilled Laborer	11	20
Computer Related	2	4
Recreational	1	1
TOTAL	54	100

These data show that ninety-five percent of the students who withdrew and are working are employed in four major occupational fields: clerical work, 31%; service occupations, 24%; retail work, 20%; and construction/ maintenance, 20%.

Of the seven response options given for reasons for withdrawal, students indicated with the greatest frequency (23%) that they were unable to get the major/courses desired. The next most frequent response (18%) was related to financial problems. Feelings of alienation (16%) and too many academic requirements (14%) were also reasons given. Table IX presents the "other" reasons given by the respondents. It should be noted here that the respondents were directed to cite as many reasons as they felt applied to their personal situation.

TABLE IX

QUESTION 19H: REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL
(Other than the given response items)

REASON	# OF RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
Dissatisfaction with Salem State College	35	38
(courses - content/size)	(4)	
(teachers)	(6)	
(registration process)	(6)	
(program/major)		
(general dissatisfaction)	(19)	
Lacked Motivation to be in School	17	18
Commuting Problems	17	18
Transferred to Another College	11	12
Rejected from Dorm	11	12
Marriage	2	12
TOTAL	93	100

Although only a small percentage (6%) of students in the population resided in on-campus residence halls, ninety-three (93%) of them responded to the survey. Of that ninety-three percent (93%) more than one-half (56%) indicated that they did not like living in a college dormitory and one-half indicated that dorm living was a factor in their withdrawal. Table X below depicts the results of Question 22.

TABLE X

QUESTION 22: HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT LIVING IN A COLLEGE DORM

RESPONSE	#	% OF RESPONSE
Didn't like it	7	56
Liked it	4	31
Mixed Feelings	1	6
Racial Tension	1	6
Total	13	100

For more than one-half (55%) of the respondents whose residency was that of a commuter, travelling to S.S.C. was not a problem. Of the respondents (45%) who indicated commuting was a problem, fifty-three (53%) cited reasons of distance/time (30%) and parking (23%) (See Table XI below).

TABLE XI

QUESTION 25: COMMUTING PROBLEMS

RESPONSE	#	% OF TOTAL
Distance and/or time	17	30
Parking	13	23
No Transportation	9	16
Poor Public Transportation (access/connections)	6	11
Transportation problems and finding cancelled classes	5	9
Cost of Commuting	5	9
Traffic	1	2
Total	56	100%

Close to ninety percent (88%) of the respondents felt that withdrawing from Salem State College was the right decision for them. Of the twelve percent who felt withdrawal was not the right decision, seventy percent (70%) indicated that they had made a mistake. Table XII below provides data on the other statements that were cited.

TABLE XII

QUESTION 29: WITHDRAWAL FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE WAS NOT RIGHT DECISION

RESPONSE	#	% OF TOTAL
I made a mistake	10	70
Should have given the school more time	2	15
Not sure what I want to do	1	10
Only wanted a Leave of Absence	1	5
Total	14	100%

Approximately one-third (34%) of the respondents said that they were interested in returning to Salem State College and of the thirty-four percent nearly forty percent (38%) indicated that they wanted to speak to someone about their possible return.

Cross-tabulation analysis of selected variables made possible the following information:

- Students who applied to Salem State College as their "first choice college" withdrew at a higher rate (23%) than those students who withdrew and did not choose (15%) Salem State College as their first choice.

- Salem State College was the second choice college for nearly 70% of the Business Administration students who withdrew; Salem State College was the first choice college for the withdrawals in Nursing, Psychology, Theatre, Social Services, Education, Business Education, Pre-Engineering, and Undecided.

- The majority (75%) of students who attended orientation indicated it was worthwhile.

- Students who were enrolled in the major of their choice transferred from Salem State College at a higher rate (47%) than those who were not in the major of their choice (33%).

- Sixty-four percent (64%) of the respondents worked while enrolled at Salem State College; of that sixty-four percent (64%) eighty-three (83%) worked up to 20 hours per week. Of that eighty-three percent (83%) sixty-one percent (61%) indicated that working did not interfere with their academic performance.

The findings of this survey seemed to support the following assumptions:

- That commuting problems contribute to student withdrawal from Salem State College.

- That for some students not getting into the dorm contributes as a cause for student withdrawal from Salem State College.

- That some students were not ready for college.

- That financial problems play an important role in student withdrawal from Salem State College.

- That the process of registration causes students to become discouraged and frustrated and subsequent withdrawal.

This study was unable to obtain data to support the remaining assumptions set forth prior to conducting the survey. Those assumptions were:

- That the cost of off-campus housing was an important reason for student withdrawal from Salem State College.

- That students at Salem State College feel alienated and alone.

- That Salem State College did not live up to the expectations of the students.

- That the inability to gain acceptance in the major of one's choice contributed to student withdrawal at Salem State College.

- That students view the academic requirements as too numerous.

- That the number of hours a student works while enrolled has a significant impact on withdrawal.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Astin, Alexander W. 1975
Preventing Students From Dropping Out
San Francisco; Jossey-Bass, Inc.

Cope, Robert G.; and Hannah William 1975.
Revolving College Doors; The Causes and Consequences of Dropping Out, Stopping Out, and Transferring. New York: John Wiley and Sons

Dallem, Jerald W. and Dawes, Barbara E. 1981. "What Follow Up Studies Can Tell About Student Retention." The Journal of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, Volume 56, November 2.

Garni, Kenneth F. 1980. "Counseling Centers and Student Retention" Why the Failures? Where the Successes"? (University Counseling Center, Suffolk University), Journal of College Student Personnel.

Grabowski, Stanley M. 1981. Marketing in Higher Education. Published by American Association for Higher Education, November 5.

Haagen, C. Hess, 1977. Venturing Beyond the Campus; Students Who Leave College, Wesleyan University Press, Connecticut.

Lenning, Oscar T. Saver, Ken; and Beal, Philip E. 1980.
Student Retention Strategies. Published by American Association for Higher Education, November 8.

Pascarella, Ernest T., and Terenzini, Patrick T. 1979. "Interaction Effects in Spady's and Tinto's Conceptual Models of College Dropout" Sociology of Education, Volume 52, October.

Rossman, Jack E., and Kirk, Barbara A. "Factors Related to Persistence and Withdrawal Among University Students" Journal of Counseling Psychology 1970. Volume 17, November 1.

Starr, Ann, Betz, Ellen L, and Menne, John. "Differences in College Student Satisfaction: Academic Dropouts, Nonacademic Dropouts and Nondropouts" Journal of Counseling Psychology 1972. Volume 19, November 4.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

- Interview Instruction Sheet
- Sample Questionnaire

INTERVIEW INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

1. IDENTIFY YOURSELF

   MY NAME IS _____

   I AM A JUNIOR AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE ENROLLED IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT AND AS A PART OF MY STUDIES I AM DOING A RESEARCH PROJECT FOR WHICH I WILL BE GRADED. THE PROJECT CONCERNS STUDENTS WHO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE.

   MY STUDY IS AIMED AT UNDERSTANDING YOUR EXPERIENCE WHILE AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE AND YOUR REASONS FOR LEAVING.

   I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR TIME AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE. IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT ___ MINUTES OF YOUR TIME.

   I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY ASKING YOU TO VERIFY SOME INFORMATION THAT I HAVE ABOUT YOU.

2. O.K. LET'S BEGIN.

3. IF THE PERSON INDICATES A DESIRE TO RETURN TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE ASSURE HIM/HER THAT YOU WILL PASS ON THE INFORMATION.

4. THANK THE PERSON - TELL HIM/HER THAT YOU GREATLY APPRECIATE HIS/HER TIME AND COOPERATION.

DEMOGRAPHIC ITEMS

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

MAJOR _____

RESIDENCE STATUS
DORM - BOWDITCH ____ PEABODY ____
COMMUTER ____
OFF-CAMPUS ____

SAT SCORES V ____ M ____

CONTENT VARIABLES

1. WHEN YOU APPLIED TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE WAS SALEM STATE YOUR FIRST CHOICE?

   A. YES ___
   B. NO ___

2. IF NO TO #1, WHICH COLLEGE WAS YOUR FIRST CHOICE?

   _____

3. WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND YOUR FIRST CHOICE COLLEGE?

   A. COST TOO HIGH ___
   B. WAS NOT ACCEPTED ___
   C. OTHER _____

4. DID YOU ENTER SALEM STATE COLLEGE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

   A. YES ___
   B. NO ___

5. IF YES TO #4 DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED A YEAR BEFORE GOING TO COLLEGE?

   A. YES ___
   B. NO ___

6. BEFORE YOU WITHDREW, DID YOU EVER MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR?

   A. YES ___
   B. NO ___

7. IF YES TO #6, DID YOU DISCUSS YOUR WITHDRAWAL WITH YOUR ADVISOR (OR ANYONE ELSE ON CAMPUS)?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

8. IF YES TO #6 AND/OR #7, WAS YOUR ADVISOR HELPFUL TO YOU?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

9. WERE YOU AWARE OF THE ADVISING CENTER ON CAMPUS?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

10. WHILE YOU WERE AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE WERE YOU ENROLLED IN THE MAJOR OF YOUR CHOICE?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

11. DID YOU HOLD A JOB WHILE YOU WERE ENROLLED AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

12. IF YES TO #11, HOW MANY HOURS PER/WEEK DID YOU WORK?

A. 4 - 10 ___
B. 11 - 15 ___
C. 16 - 20 ___
D. 21 - 25 ___
E. 26 - 30 ___
F. MORE THAN 30 ___

13. IF YES TO #11, DO YOU FEEL WORKING INTERFERED WITH YOUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

14. DID YOU PAY YOUR OWN COLLEGE COSTS?

A. TOTALLY ___
B. PARTIALLY ___
C. NOT AT ALL ___

15. WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

A. TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COLLEGE___
WHICH COLLEGE? _____
B. WORKING ___
C. OTHER _____

16. IF YOU ANSWERED "B" TO #15, WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU DOING? _____

17. DID YOU ATTEND THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PROGRAM?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

18. IF YES TO #17, DID YOU FEEL IT WAS WORTHWHILE?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

19. (REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL)
WHY DID YOU WITHDRAW FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

A. I WAS UNABLE TO GET THE MAJOR/COURSES I WANTED___
B. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS THAT WERE MORE IMPORTANT ___
C. I FELT ALIENATED AND ALONE AT THE COLLEGE___
D. I HAD FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ___
E. I HAD NO FRIENDS ATTENDING SALEM STATE COLLEGE ___
F. TOO MANY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS ___
G. I DIDN'T THINK I COULD MAKE THE GRADES THAT I NEEDED TO PASS ___
H. OTHER REASONS _____
_____
_____
_____

20. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT COLLEGE LIFE TO BE LIKE? _____
_____
_____
_____

21. DID SALEM STATE COLLEGE MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

FOR DORM STUDENTS, GO TO #22
FOR COMMUTERS, GO TO # 24
FOR OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS, GO TO #26

22. HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT LIVING IN A COLLEGE DORMITORY?

_____
_____
_____

23. WAS DORMITORY LIVING A FACTOR IN YOUR WITHDRAWAL?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

24. WAS COMMUTING TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

25. IF YES TO #24, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

_____
_____
_____

26. WAS OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING SATISFACTORY?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

27. IF NO TO #26, WHY?

_____
_____
_____

28. DO YOU STILL FEEL THAT WITHDRAWING FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE WAS THE RIGHT DECISION FOR YOU?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

29. IF NO TO #28, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

_____
_____
_____
_____

30. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

31. IF YES TO #30, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO SOMEONE (COUNSELOR) ABOUT RETURNING?

A. YES ___
B. NO ___

APPENDIX B

Survey Results

SURVEY RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHIC ITEMS

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

MAJOR Table III

RESIDENCE STATUS
11%
DORM - BOWDITCH ____ PEABODY ____
COMMUTER ____
OFF-CAMPUS ____ } 88%

SAT SCORES V ____ M ____ Combined ____ Table IV

Mean: 434 471 859

CONTENT VARIABLES

1. WHEN YOU APPLIED TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE WAS SALEM STATE YOUR FIRST CHOICE?

   A. YES 62%
   B. NO 38%

2. IF NO TO #1, WHICH COLLEGE WAS YOUR FIRST CHOICE?

   Table V

3. WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTEND YOUR FIRST CHOICE COLLEGE?

   A. COST TOO HIGH 38%
   B. WAS NOT ACCEPTED 33%
   C. OTHER 29% Table VI

4. DID YOU ENTER SALEM STATE COLLEGE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

   A. YES 90%
   B. NO 10%

5. IF YES TO #4 DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED A YEAR BEFORE GOING TO COLLEGE?

   A. YES 48%
   B. NO 52%

6. BEFORE YOU WITHDREW, DID YOU EVER MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR?

   A. YES 22%
   B. NO 78%

7. IF YES TO #6, DID YOU DISCUSS YOUR WITHDRAWAL WITH YOUR ADVISOR (OR ANYONE ELSE ON CAMPUS)?

A. YES 29%
B. NO 71%

8. IF YES TO #6 AND/OR #7, WAS YOUR ADVISOR HELPFUL TO YOU?

A. YES 75%
B. NO 25%

9. WERE YOU AWARE OF THE ADVISING CENTER ON CAMPUS?

A. YES 65%
B. NO 35%

10. WHILE YOU WERE AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE WERE YOU ENROLLED IN THE MAJOR OF YOUR CHOICE?

A. YES 67%
B. NO 33%

11. DID YOU HOLD A JOB WHILE YOU WERE ENROLLED AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE?

A. YES 64%
B. NO 36%

12. IF YES TO #11, HOW MANY HOURS PER/WEEK DID YOU WORK?

A. 4 - 10 13%
B. 11 - 15 28%
C. 16 - 20 40%
D. 21 - 25 13%
E. 26 - 30 29%
F. MORE THAN 30 3%

13. IF YES TO #11, DO YOU FEEL WORKING INTERFERED WITH YOUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

A. YES 28%
B. NO 73%

14. DID YOU PAY YOUR OWN COLLEGE COSTS?

A. TOTALLY 42%
B. PARTIALLY 28%
C. NOT AT ALL 30%

15. WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

A. TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER COLLEGE 38%
WHICH COLLEGE? Table VII
B. WORKING 57%
C. OTHER 5%

16. IF YOU ANSWERED "B" TO #15, WHAT TYPE OF WORK ARE YOU DOING? Table VIII

17. DID YOU ATTEND THE FRESHMAN ORIENTATION PROGRAM?

A. YES 96%
B. NO 4%

18. IF YES TO #17, DID YOU FEEL IT WAS WORTHWHILE?

A. YES 76%
B. NO 24%

19. (REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL)
WHY DID YOU WITHDRAW FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

A. I WAS UNABLE TO GET THE MAJOR/COURSES I WANTED 23%
B. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS THAT WERE MORE IMPORTANT 9%
C. I FELT ALIENATED AND ALONE AT THE COLLEGE 16%
D. I HAD FINANCIAL PROBLEMS 18%
E. I HAD NO FRIENDS ATTENDING SALEM STATE COLLEGE 5%
F. TOO MANY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS 14%
G. I DIDN'T THINK I COULD MAKE THE GRADES THAT I NEEDED TO PASS 12%
H. OTHER REASONS Table IX

20. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT COLLEGE LIFE TO BE LIKE?
No significant findings; item eliminated

21. DID SALEM STATE COLLEGE MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

A. YES 59%
B. NO 41%

FOR DORM STUDENTS, GO TO #22
FOR COMMUTERS, GO TO # 24
FOR OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS, GO TO #26

22. HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT LIVING IN A COLLEGE DORMITORY?

Table X

23. WAS DORMITORY LIVING A FACTOR IN YOUR WITHDRAWAL?

A. YES 50%
B. NO 50%

24. WAS COMMUTING TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

A. YES 45%
B. NO 55%

25. IF YES TO #24, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Table XI

26. WAS OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING SATISFACTORY?

A. YES 56%
B. NO 44%

27. IF NO TO #26, WHY?

No significant findings; item eliminated

28. DO YOU STILL FEEL THAT WITHDRAWING FROM SALEM STATE COLLEGE WAS THE RIGHT DECISION FOR YOU?

A. YES 88%
B. NO 12%

29. IF NO TO #28, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Table XII

30. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO SALEM STATE COLLEGE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE?

A. YES 34%
B. NO 66%

31. IF YES TO #30, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO SOMEONE (COUNSELOR) ABOUT RETURNING?

A. YES 38%
B. NO 62%